UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/47/L.83
10 December 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 80

PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.58

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of the operative paragraphs 6, 7 and 11 of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.58 the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change should continue to function in order to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as specified in the Convention, and, in that context, to contribute to the effective operation of the interim arrangements set out in article 21 of the Convention;

(b) Invite the Committee, in that regard, to draw up an adequate plan of preparatory work at its sixth session and to implement it expeditiously thereafter, and request the Secretary-General to make arrangements within the overall calendar of conferences for the Committee to hold sessions in accordance with the needs of that plan;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to strengthen the secretariat established by the General Assembly in resolution 45/212 so that it could function as the interim secretariat of the Convention until the completion of the first session of the Conference of the Parties and, in that capacity, provide adequate support to the evolving work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, and further request him to make provisions for that purpose within the current and forthcoming programme budgets.

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B. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

2. The activities proposed in the draft resolution are related to programme 16 (Environment), subprogramme 10 (Environmental management measures), of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and the proposed revisions thereto. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/169, arrangements were made for conference servicing of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in 1992 within existing resources under section 32 (Conference services), and for the ad hoc secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to continue its work to the end of 1992 from the contingency fund under section 11F (Protection of global climate) of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

3. The secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee would function as the interim secretariat of the Convention until the completion of the first session of the Conference of the Parties and, in that capacity, provide support to the Committee.

4. The activities called for by the draft resolution would require the revision of the programme narratives under section 11F (Protection of global climate) of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, as follows:

> Paragraph 11F.2. In 1993 major efforts will be devoted to preparations for the entry into force of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In accordance with the provisions of article 21 of the Convention, the secretariat will provide substantive support to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee with a view to promoting the ratification and implementation of the Convention and to supporting developing and other countries in preparing for their participation in the Convention.

C. Financial arrangements and estimated resource requirements for the proposed activities

5. It is recalled that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/169, a provision of $1,176,300 was made under section 11F of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. This provision included $829,300 for five Professional (one D-2, one D-1, one P-5, one P-4, one P-3) and four General Service category posts, as well as $347,000 non-staff resources to continue the work of the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to the end of 1992. Additional staff were also made available to that secretariat by the World Meteorological Organization (one D-1, two General Service) and the United Nations Environment Programme (one D-1 for three months, one P-4 and one General Service for eight months), and by Governments through bilateral arrangements (one L-4 financed through September 1992 and two L-2). In 1992 the total cost of the staff financed from extrabudgetary sources is estimated at $698,000.

6. The conference servicing of the sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in 1992 has been provided from within the conference-servicing capacity of the Organization under section 32 (Conference services). In addition, administrative support has been provided by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and technical secretariat services by the Department of Economic and Social Development.

7. Extrabudgetary funding to cover additional non-staff requirements amounting to $400,000 were made available to the secretariat through the trust fund for the negotiating process. The participation of developing countries in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee was financed from the special voluntary trust fund to support participation of developing countries in the negotiating process. Contributions to this trust fund in 1991-1992 amounted to $2.1 million. In addition, pre-session training seminars for delegates from developing countries were organized at a cost of $200,000, financed from the Trust Fund for International Cooperation for Development.

8. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.58, it would be the intention of the Secretary-General to place the secretariat established by the General Assembly in resolution 45/212 within the new Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. Since the exact features of this new Department are not yet known and will be presented to the General Assembly in the context of additional revised estimates early next year, it is proposed at this stage to maintain the existing secretariat arrangements. The interim secretariat would continue to be located in Geneva and would consist of five Professional (1 D-2, 1 D-1, 1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 P-2) and four General Service posts, to be financed from the regular budget.

9. The functions attached to these posts would be the following:

(a) The D-2 post would be for the head of the secretariat;

(b) The D-1 post would be for a deputy, who would also be responsible for the organization and supervision of the substantive work and for the liaison with Member States and other participants in the negotiating process;

(c) The P-4 post would be for the legal officer responsible for analysis, drafting and advice on legal aspects of the Framework Convention and related legal instruments;

(d) The P-3 post would be for an officer who would assist the head of the secretariat and be responsible, inter alia, for documentation, conference planning and liaison with the Department of Conference Services and the Department of Economic and Social Development on issues of servicing the sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

(e) The P-2 post would be for an officer who would be responsible, inter alia, for financial arrangements regarding the participation of developing countries in the sessions of the Committee and dissemination of documentation and information materials.

10. A P-2 and a P-3 post are available for temporary redeployment to this interim secretariat. The other posts mentioned above, and, if necessary, additional staff resources, will be identified for redeployment from within the new Department or other parts of the Secretariat. Such redeployment will be presented in the revised estimates to be submitted to the General Assembly early next year. Meanwhile, it is proposed to finance the remaining posts of the interim secretariat (one P-2, one D-1, one P-4 and four General Service posts) from general temporary assistance. A provision of $379,000, representing six work-months for each of these seven posts, is requested for this purpose. Should there by any difficulty in identifying posts at the appropriate levels before 30 June 1993, a report would be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

11. In addition to the staff resources proposed above, the posts currently financed by the World Meteorological Organization (one D-1, two General Service) and under bilateral arrangements (two L-2) would remain available in 1993. Moreoever, contributions from other specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system would be sought through bilateral arrangements.

12. As regards the non-staff requirements of the interim secretariat, they are estimated for 1993 as follows:

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Consultants	48 000
Overtime	5 000
Expert groups (12 experts)	35 000
Travel of staff	150 000
External printing	5 000
Communications	40 000
Hospitality	6 000
Miscellaneous	2 000
Supplies and materials	48 000
Furniture and equipment	10 000
EDP equipment	10 000
Total	359 000

13. The total additional requirements in relation to activities of the ad hoc secretariat in 1993 would thus amount to $738,000.

14. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee will hold its sixth session from 7 to 10 December 1992 in Geneva. At that session, it will determine its future calendar of meetings. Thus, at this time, it is not possible to

provide precise estimates of its conference-servicing requirements. However, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, in which the General Assembly invited the Committee to implement the programme of work expeditiously, it is assumed that the Committee would hold two sessions of 10 days each in 1993 in Geneva. The estimated requirements for conference servicing at full cost for these two sessions would amount to $990,000 (see annex for breakdown). Any change in these assumptions would be treated in accordance with existing procedures.

15. The cost of the participation of the developing countries in the negotiating process would be financed from the voluntary fund established under paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 45/212.

16. Requirements for the years 1994 and 1995 would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

17. The estimated conference-servicing resources totalling $990,000 are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity under section 41 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and that additional resources would be required for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity needs to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can only be determined in the light of the proposed calendar of conferences for the biennium 1992-1993. As indicated in paragraph 32.4 of the proposed budget for the biennium 1992-1993, however, the level of resources for temporary assistance for meetings in 1992-1993 was estimated, on the basis of previous experience, to accommodate not only meetings that are programmed but also additional meetings. In other words, provision was made in the proposed programme budget not only for meetings known at the time of the budget preparation but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and the distribution of meetings and conferences in the biennium 1992-1993 were consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 41 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 as a result of the adoption of the draft resolution.

D. Contingency fund

18. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in resolution 41/213, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, those activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of projected activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the Assembly towards the end of its current session.

19. No activities are proposed for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, in order to provide additional resources for the proposed activities. In the event, therefore, that such resources are not available from the contingency fund, these activities would have to be postponed, as provided for in the criteria for the use of the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in the annex to its resolution 42/211.

E. Summary

20. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.58, the narrative of the programme of work indicated in paragraph 4 above would be added under section 11F of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. An additional appropriation in the amount of $738,000 would be required under that same section in connection with activities of the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, subject to the guidelines for the operation and use of the contingency fund. In addition, an amount of $119,200 would be required under section 36 (Staff assessment) to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

ANNEX

Estimated conference-servicing requirements at full cost

1. Seventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (Geneva, 10 days 1993)

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A.	Pre-session documentation (200 pages, 16 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	216 200
B.	Meeting services (Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S)	115 900
C.	In-session documentation (100 pages, 8 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	108 500
D.	Post-session documentation (50 pages, 4 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	54 400
	Total	495 000

2. Eighth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (Geneva, 10 days 1993)

A.	Pre-session documentation (200 pages, 16 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	216 200
B.	Meeting services (Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S)	115 900
C.	In-session documentation (100 pages, 8 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	108 500
D.	Post-session documentation (50 pages, 4 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	54 400
	Total	495 000
	Grand total	990 000